



Tracy Harrity &lt;tharrity@northampton-k12.us&gt;

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**Fwd: PRS 4594 Request for Local Report**

1 message

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**John Provost** <jprovost@northampton-k12.us>  
To: Tracy Harrity <tharrity@northampton-k12.us>

Wed, Dec 2, 2020 at 1:25 PM

Please print attachments.

JP

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Simpson, Jennifer (DOE) <jennifer.simpson2@state.ma.us>  
**Date:** Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 4:16 PM  
**Subject:** RE: PRS 4594 Request for Local Report  
**To:** John Provost <jprovost@northampton-k12.us>

Hi Dr. Provost,

The web intakes for PRS 4591, 4593, and 4594 are attached for your review.

Thanks,  
Jennifer

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**Jennifer Simpson, M.A., J.D.****Education Specialist****W** 781-338-3727 | **F** 781-338-3710[jennifer.simpson@mass.gov](mailto:jennifer.simpson@mass.gov)**Problem Resolution System**Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary  
Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148

[Web](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Newsletters](#)



This school year, we all have a role to play to keep each other healthy. [Learn more.](#)

**From:** John Provost <[jprovost@northampton-k12.us](mailto:jprovost@northampton-k12.us)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 1, 2020 3:51 PM  
**To:** Simpson, Jennifer (DESE) <[Jennifer.Simpson@mass.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Simpson@mass.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: PRS 4594 Request for Local Report

CAUTION: This email originated from a sender outside of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts mail system. Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Jennifer,

While looking at the three complaints that came in today, I did not find any of the initial complaints. From the requested information, I assume that the asynchronous component was a key feature of the complaints, but I'd like to know if that is the core issue.

JP

On Tue, Dec 1, 2020 at 1:16 PM Simpson, Jennifer (DOE) <[jennifer.simpson2@state.ma.us](mailto:jennifer.simpson2@state.ma.us)> wrote:

Dear Superintendent Provost,

Please see the attached Request for Local Report for PRS 4594.

Thanks,  
Jennifer

Jennifer Simpson, M.A., J.D.

Education Specialist

W 781-338-3727 | F 781-338-3710

[jennifer.simpson@mass.gov](mailto:jennifer.simpson@mass.gov)

Problem Resolution System

Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148

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MANY FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING RIGHT NOW.  
IF YOU'RE FEELING OVERWHELMED, IT'S OKAY TO ASK FOR HELP.

## We All Need Help Sometimes



**Family Resource Center**  
Your local Family Resource Center:  
[www.frcma.org](http://www.frcma.org)



IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911

This school year, we all have a role to play to keep each other healthy. [Learn more.](#)



### DISTRICT CORE VALUES

- ✓ Build Communities of Engaged Students
- ✓ Enable Students to Reach Their Potential
- ✓ Nurture Kindness, Empathy and Tolerance



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Remember when writing or responding to email, the Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that e-mail is a public record. All electronic messages sent from the Northampton Public Schools are archived in conformance with Massachusetts and Federal Public Records law.



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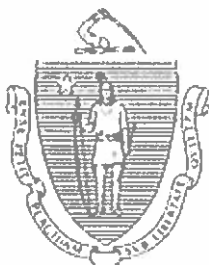
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### 3 attachments

 **PRS4591webintake.frm (1).pdf**  
101K

 **PRS4593webintake.frm (1).pdf**  
101K

 **PRS4594webintake.frm.pdf**  
102K



# Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

75 Pleasant St, Malden, Massachusetts  
02148-4906

Telephone: (781) 338-3700

TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-  
2370

Thank you for contacting the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Your message has been received. You will be contacted by Problem Resolution System staff within a few days.

## Contact information

**Salutation**

**First Name**  
margaret-ann

**Last Name**  
azzaro

**Phone**  
4138969987

**Email**  
mazzaro@cooleydickinson.org

**Address**

161 cardinal way

**City**  
florence

**State**  
massachusetts

**Zip**  
01062

## Additional information about you

**Primary Language**

**Your Role**  
Parent

**Accommodations required in communicating  
with us**

## **District and School**

### **District**

Northampton

### **School**

Northampton High

## **Student or Group dtails**

### **Student type**

Instructional

### **Student program type**

## **Student information**

### **First name**

### **Last name**

### **Grade**

### **Date of birth**

### **Age**

### **Gender**

## **Parent/Guardian information**

### **First name**

### **Last name**

### **Phone**

### **Email**

### **Address**

### **City**

### **State**

MA

### **Zip**

## **Concerns**

### **Brief statement of concern(s)**

I have been writing and speaking during public comment at school committee meetings to advocate for our Northampton students to get back into the classroom. I have written the Mayor, Superintendent and school committee multiple times during the last 6 months. Our kids have

been out of school since March. Northampton has some of the lowest prevalence and incidence rates in the Commonwealth and yet our kids sit home day after day with full remote education, not even a hybrid. Every Wed. the instruction is limited to a couple hours a day and then they have the rest of the day off. Every day there is a "flex" period in which zero instruction is being given. This is hurting our kids socially, emotionally and physically. This needs to stop. The school committee refuses to follow the scientific evidence and guidance of our Governor and Commissioner of education. I am requesting an audit be done in Northampton. This is beyond local officials here, we need the help of DESE and the state to get our kids back into school. I would love to see a mandate by the governor to ensure our kids get back into the classroom. Northampton elected officials are failing us and our children.

**Your attempts to resolve current concern(s)**

see above. Multiple phone calls, emails and speaking during public comment at school committee meetings.

**Actions by the school you believe would resolve your concern(s)**

Going back into the classroom asap.

**BSEA mediation or hearing?**

**Confidentiality and third party sharing**

**I give my consent for the Department to share personally identifiable student information with the following persons or parties for purposes of handling this complaint.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>
margaret-ann azzaro	florence
<b>Phone</b>	<b>State</b>
4138969987	massachusetts
<b>Email</b>	<b>Zip</b>
mazzaro@cooleydickinson.org	01062
<b>Address</b>	
161 cardinal way	

**Problem Resolution System-Additional Resources**

PRS staff are available by phone and email between 8:45 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. every business day to discuss your issues, answer your questions, and if needed, to help you to file a complaint with the Department. PRS can assist you if a publicly funded education provider is not implementing the requirements of any federal or state education related law or regulation under our authority. If your concerns are outside the authority of the Department to resolve, PRS staff will suggest next steps you can

take or other resources you can access to resolve your issue, some of which are listed below.

- Issues involving **bias motivated threats, harassment or violence** can be addressed through:

Office of the Attorney General

Civil Rights Division

One Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108

<http://www.mass.gov/ago/>

Phone: 617-963-2917

- The US Department of Education's **Office of Civil Rights** works to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence through vigorous enforcement of civil rights in our nation's schools.

U.S. Department of Education-Office of Civil Rights

8th Floor 5 Post Office Square

Boston, MA 02109-3921

Telephone: (617) 289-0111

Facsimile: (617) 289-0150

Email: [OCR.Boston@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.Boston@ed.gov)

- The **Bureau of Special Education Appeals** conducts due process hearings and renders rulings and decisions concerning eligibility, evaluation, placement,



individualized education programs (IEP), provision of special education and procedural protections for students with disabilities:

Bureau of Special Education Appeals

14 Summer St., 4th Floor

Malden, MA 02148

<https://www.mass.gov/orgs/bureau-of-special-education-appeals>

Phone: 781-397-4750

- Issues involving **school health and nurses** can be directed to:

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

250 Washington St.

Boston, MA 02108

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs>

Phone: 617-624-6000

- Issues involving the **care and welfare of children** can be directed to:

The Department of Families and Children (DCF)

600 Washington St.

Boston, MA 02111

<http://www.mass.gov/eohhs/gov/departments/dcf/>

Phone: 1-800-792-5200

- Issues related to the provision of **public records** can be addressed to:

Secretary of the Commonwealth

Public Records Division

McCormack Building

One Ashburton Place, Room 1719

Boston, MA 02108

[www.sec.state.ma.us](http://www.sec.state.ma.us)

Phone: 617-727-7030

- Issues related to the **Open Meeting Law**:

One Ashburton Place

Boston, MA 02108-1518

[www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting](http://www.mass.gov/ago/openmeeting)

Phone: 617-727-2200

- Issues or concerns about a **child or youth who is receiving services directly from a state agency**, or **services that are funded by a state agency**, may be directed to:

Office of the Child Advocate

Mail: One Ashburton Place, 5th Floor,

Boston, MA 02108

Complaint Line: 617-979-8374

Online Form: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/file-a-complaint-with-the-oca>

Email: [childadvocate@mass.gov](mailto:childadvocate@mass.gov)



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2370

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System staff within a few days.

## Contact information

### Salutation

### First Name

Samantha

### Last Name

Molitoris

### Phone

413-923-8036

### Email

smolitor77@yahoo.com

### Address

949 Florence Road

### City

Florence

### State

MA

### Zip

01062

## Additional information about you

### Primary Language

English

### Your Role

Parent

Accommodations required in communicating  
with us

## **District and School**

**District**

Northampton

**School**

## **Student or Group dtails**

**Student type**

Instructional

**Student program type**

General Education

## **Student information**

**First name**

**Last name**

**Grade**

**Date of birth**

**Age**

**Gender**

## **Parent/Guardian information**

**First name**

**Last name**

**Phone**

**Email**

**Address**

**City**

**State**

MA

**Zip**

## **Concerns**

**Brief statement of concern(s)**

Our district has planned 2 choices for hybrid models- 2 full days a week and 2 half days a week. The hybrid models are being voted on tonight (11/09/2020) at a school committee meetings by the committee members. The hybrid, as of today, is set to begin on 11/12/2020. The hybrid plan

for bringing kids back to school for in-person learning is paced out so far that all middle and high school students won't be hybrid until January and February. This does not leave much time for transitioning to full-time in-person learning before the school year ends. Our district, at this point, does not have a date set for full-time in-person learning. Our district (city of Northampton) has been in grey since the end of July and we are low risk. The district is not heeding the advice and recommendations of numerous public health officials, medical providers, and nurses including our director of public health, Meridith O'Leary. In addition, as of Friday 11/06/2020, the governor of the state, Governor Baker, is recommending children be in-person full time as soon as possible.

Our Wednesdays, at this time, are a student self-directed learning day (asynchronous learning) and has been since the beginning of the school year. In the current possible hybrid plans, Wednesdays will continue as a "0" day (asynchronous learning) with student self-directed learning.

**Your attempts to resolve current concern(s)**

I have sent numerous emails asking for as much in-person learning as possible and now I am asking for full time in-person learning.

**Actions by the school you believe would resolve your concern(s)**

For the district to heed the advice of public health professionals, medical providers, nurses, and the Governor of MA and put the children in full time in-person learning as soon as possible.

**BSEA mediation or hearing?**

**Confidentiality and third party sharing**

**I give my consent for the Department to share personally identifiable student information with the following persons or parties for purposes of handling this complaint.**

<b>Name</b>	<b>City</b>
<b>Phone</b>	<b>State</b>
<b>Email</b>	<b>Zip</b>
<b>Address</b>	

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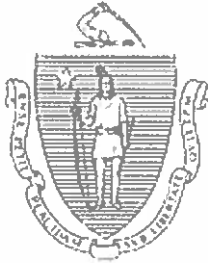
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## Contact information

**Salutation****First Name**

Tamara

**Last Name**

Galvin

**Phone**

917-399-9833

**Email**

tamaragalvin@gmail.com

**Address**

1 Prospect Court

**City**

Northampton

**State**

MA

**Zip**

01060

## Additional information about you

**Primary Language**

English

**Your Role**

Parent

**Accommodations required in communicating  
with us**

## **District and School**

### **District**

Northampton

### **School**

Northampton High

## **Student or Group dtails**

### **Student type**

School Wide

### **Student program type**

General Education

## **Student information**

### **First name**

### **Last name**

### **Grade**

### **Date of birth**

### **Age**

### **Gender**

## **Parent/Guardian information**

### **First name**

### **Last name**

### **Phone**

### **Email**

### **Address**

### **City**

### **State**

MA

### **Zip**

## **Concerns**

### **Brief statement of concern(s)**

The district of Northampton remains fully remote (except for Special Needs students) despite DESE guidance and strong scientific data supporting a return to in-person learning. A recently approved hybrid learning plan has middle and high school students returning to school in late

February. The approved plan has two major faults- there is not enough in person learning and the February start date is unreasonably late. Northampton's Covid cases have been low for months, there is no reason to delay. I have three children in the Northampton Public Schools - one at John F Kennedy Middle School and two at Northampton High School. Under the current model, all three children have far too much time when they are not being taught by a teacher. Wednesdays are simply a check in day and there is no new instruction. There are supposedly assignments to be completed on Wednesdays but by 10:30, its a day off. My children are regularly given Zoom-free days off or their teachers have wifi issues. I'm at home with my children all day and am highly aware of how much they are NOT being taught. We have rarely had a day when all three kids have had their full day of instruction.

**Your attempts to resolve current concern(s)**

I have spoken at school committee meetings and sent several emails to school committee members, superintendent of school and mayor.

**Actions by the school you believe would resolve your concern(s)**

At the very least, all Northampton students should be provided with some in person instruction. Ideally, students should return to school fully in-person.

**BSEA mediation or hearing?**

**Confidentiality and third party sharing**

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